

**Debt burden ratio quartiles, average income, and average annual payment in the first full year of repayment: 1997-2000**

First Full Year of Repayment	Debt Burden Ratio <sup>1</sup>			Average Income <sup>2</sup>	Average Annual Payment <sup>3</sup>
	Quartile 1	Median	Quartile 3		
2000	3.21%	6.38%	15.14%	\$36,523	\$2,455
1999	3.29	6.48	14.96	32,434	2,187
1998	3.61	7.09	16.07	30,045	2,251
1997	3.46	6.74	15.46	28,503	1,966

<sup>1</sup> Debt Burden Ratio = Annual payment divided by annual income. Cases with \$0 or less income had their debt burden ratio set to an arbitrarily high number.

<sup>2</sup> Average Income = Income of the borrower, and their spouse if married filing jointly.

<sup>3</sup> Average Annual Payment = Yearly payments required on the borrower's total Federal debt assuming a fixed 10-year repayment schedule. At an 8% interest rate, an annual payment amount of \$1,000 would translate into a total debt of approximately \$6,900.

Source: Debt information from a random sample of Federal borrowers drawn from the National Student Loan Data System merged with income data from Internal Revenue Service records. No NCES data were used to produce this table.